

IN THE SPECIFICATION

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The invention now proposes to place a permanent magnet 15 on the promontory while positioning the coil 17 either on the tympanic membrane proper or for instance on the malleus 3 next to the ear drum. The fact that the dimensions of the permanent magnet 15 can be made larger by a fair amount than those of the permanent magnet described in US 6.084.975, correspondingly allows for a significantly small coil 17 to be employed, which offers important advantages. For one, substantially smaller currents in the coil suffice to produce the necessary movement. For another, significantly less heat is generated. Placing the coil in the area of the ear drum also permits more efficient heat dissipation through the external auditory meatus to the outside, which would be more difficult to obtain if a coil 17 were located on the promontory 13.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice and please add the following new claims:

27 Sub B3  
13. (new) An implantable hearing device comprising:

2 at least one permanent magnet adapted for being positioned on a promontory  
3 in the area of the middle ear; and  
4 at least one coil adapted for placing in the area of the middle ear.

1 14. (new) The hearing device of claim 13, wherein said coil is adapted for  
2 placing in an area of an ossicle chain.

1 15. (new) The hearing device of claim 13, wherein said coil is adapted for  
2 placing at a tympanic membrane.

1 16. (new) The hearing device of claim 13, wherein said coil is adapted for  
2 positioning behind a tympanic membrane.

1 17. (new) The hearing device of one of claim 13, wherein said permanent

2 magnet is radially polarized.

1 18. (new) The hearing device of claim 17, wherein said permanent magnet  
2 is adapted to be removeably attached to the promontory.

1 19. (new) The hearing device of one of claims 13, wherein said permanent  
2 magnet is one of a circular, oval, square, or rectangular design.

1 20. (new) The hearing device of one of claims 13-16, wherein said  
2 permanent magnet is adapted to be solidly attached to the promontory.

1 21. (new) The hearing device of one of claims 13-16, wherein said  
2 permanent magnet is adapted to be removeably attached to the promontory.

1 22. (new) The hearing device of one of claims 13, wherein said coil is one  
2 of a circular or an oval design.

1 23. (new) The hearing device of one of claims 13-14, wherein said coil  
2 extends in a plain parallel to the permanent magnet.

1 24. (new) The hearing device of one of claims 13-14, wherein said coil  
2 extends in a plain perpendicular to the permanent magnet.

1 25. (new) The hearing device of one of claims 13-14, wherein said coil  
2 extends in a plain that is between 0° and 180° relative to the magnet.

1 26. (new) The hearing device of one of claims 13-16, wherein said  
2 permanent magnet is adapted to be positioned on the promontory in an adjustable  
3 fashion.

1 27. (new) The hearing device of claim 26, wherein an air-gap between  
2 said permanent magnet and said coil can be adjusted by post-implantation  
3 adjustment of said magnet.

1 28. (new) A method for enhancing auditory capacity by amplifying a

2 natural movement of a vibrating ossicle tract, said method comprising the steps of:  
3 converting an acoustic signal into an electrical signal;  
4 converting said electrical signal into a mechanical oscillation of a coil adapted  
5 for positioning in a middle ear, wherein said converting said electrical  
6 signal into said mechanical oscillation of said coil utilizes a permanent  
7 magnet adapted for being positioned on a promontory.

1 29. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said coil is adapted for placing  
2 in an area of an ossicle chain.

1 30. (new) The hearing device of one of claims 13-16 for implementing the  
2 method of claim 29.

1 31. (new) The hearing device of claim 26 for implementing the method of  
2 claim 29.

1 32. (new) The hearing device of claim 27 for implementing the method of  
2 claim 29.

1 33. (new) The method of claim 28, wherein said coil is adapted for placing  
2 at the tympanic membrane.

1 34. (new) The hearing device of claim 13 for implementing the method of  
2 claim 33.

1 35. (new) The hearing device of claim 13 for implementing the method of  
2 claim 28.